

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-05 INT-05 FEA-01 L-03 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 /107 W

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R 011540Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2903

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EINV, EIND, BENC, GR

SUBJECT: NEW MINING LEGISLATION PASSED BY GREEK PARLIAMENT

REF: (A) ATHENS 1606; (B) ATHENS 811; (C) 75 ATHENS 9655

1. PARLIAMENT PASSED LAST WEEK THE THREE BILLS INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REVISE THE MINING CODE AND IMPROVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESEARCH IN THE SECTOR (SEE REF A) WITHOUT ANY MAJOR CHANGES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE BILLS WILL BE PUBLISHED WITHIN 10 DAYS IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL TAKE EFFECT

2. ON FEBRUARY 24, THE DAY AFTER THE LAST OF THE THREE BILLS HAD BEEN PASSED BY PARLIAMENT, PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ONCE AGAIN STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MINERALS SECTOR AT A CONFERENCE PUBLICIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HELLENIC INDUSTRIAL AND INVESTMENT MINING COMPANY (HIMIC, SEE REF B FOR BACKGROUND). AT THE MEETING CARAMANLIS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT HIMIC WOULD

COMPLEMENT PRIVATE INVESTMENT, NOT SUPPLANT IT, AND INDICATED THAT THE

GOVERNMENT WAS FOLLOWING A "MODERN POLICY OF FREE ECONOMY," A

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POLICY SIMILAR TO THOSE "FOLLOWED BY THE COUNTRIES OF DEMOCRATIC

EUROPE." THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED SEVERAL PROJECTS IN WHICH
US INVESTMENT IS INVOLVED AS VERY HIGH PRIORITY: THE BAUXITES
PARNASSE ALUMINA PROJECT (NATIONAL STEEL- SOUTHWIRE); THE CERRO
ASBESTOS UNIT; AND HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT CENTERING AROUND THE
THASSOS FIELD (OCEANIC).
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Message Attributes

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